

SIDNEY LANIER ELEMENTARY

A TEA EXEMPLARY CAMPUS

A DALLAS ISD MAGNET SCHOOL

Tricks Not Treats



Fifth grade theater students (left-to right): Jaya Allen, Kellanee Carter, Daisy Murillo, Allea Davis, Salma Carrillo, Lisette Sandoval, Juanita Segoviano, Areli Garcia, Chadaeya Bell, Chloe Trent, D'ajuan Johnson, and Katrina Johans.

The Theater Arts Vanguard presented Thriller Theater on Thursday, October 22, 2009 to a Standing Room Only house. The theater was so packed that Mrs. Weeks and the actors had to change entrances and exits during the performance! The delightful set and colorful, clever costumes were fun and supported the acting and technical work done by the students. Actors entered the theater to the music of Michael Jackson's popular song,

Thriller. The audience enjoyed the theatrical treat of chills, thrills and seasonal silliness.

The entire 4th grade joined together to recite "No Tricks, Just Treats", a poetry celebration of creatures and characters including football-playing pumpkins, Dia de los Muertos ghosts and skeletons, and some shop-till-you drop diva witches.

The students in 51 worked together on a play about searching for your "true self", The witches. The ghost

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Character Counts

Character Counts Week is October 19-23. Character Counts! is the nation's most widely implemented character education framework. Good character is necessary to successfully meet life's challenges. It doesn't just happen. It is up to all of us to teach young people right from wrong. That is why Character Counts! Week was started. We teach the students The Six Pillars of Character

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Counselor: Ms. Morgan reads to Ms. Davis 4th-grade class

Tricks Not Treats

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from Michael Jackson made a very special appearance. The evening concluded with 52's performance of a mini-musical, I Feel A Song Coming On. Students portrayed famous folk-tale characters helping some lost little witches find a special place to belong. The songs and movements showcased the actors' talent and interest in Musical Theater.

The night's success was also due to the Theater parents who generously volunteered their time, talent and good humor to assist during rehearsals and backstage during the performance. Mrs. Weeks and the Theater students really appreciated all the parents! All the work by the students such as memorizing, blocking,

creating characters, learning Theater etiquette and coming together as an ensemble made for a satisfying and successful...not to mention THRILLING night of theatre.

Written by Sara Weeks



3 Little Twitches (from left-to-right)—Emily Parra, Mia Hendrix, and Paige Mitchell

Dropping In



(Left-to-right) Eduardo Rodriguez, Bryan Carlson, Jose Hernandez, Jacob Arrona, and Sharretha Hinton

Fifth-grade science students in Mrs. Hinton's class are exploring the Physics of Sound in Physical Science. They had the opportunity to observe sounds made by objects when dropped, compare sounds to develop sound-discrimination ability, create a code, and communicate with others using a drop code. At the end the students had a chance to reflect on the activity by answering the following questions: What does "sound discrimination" mean? What are the properties of objects that make loud & soft sounds when they are dropped? What could think you use a drop code for besides sending word messages to your friends? How can codes, made up of sounds, be used to communicate?

*Written by Alicia Davis,
4th grade teacher*

What's Happening In TAG?

The first few weeks in 4th & 5th grade TAG classes we did a creative writing project called, "Connection to Color." Each student had to choose a color from a Crayola Crayon 96 count box. They had to choose a color with an added flair—for example "Outrageous Orange" over simply "Orange". The challenge was to brainstorm a list of words that truly connect to the color they chose, as if their color had a real life personality. For

example, "Miss Outrageous Orange" may have an obnoxious or outgoing and loud personality over a shy and timid one since the color orange is loud.

The students then had to take their brainstormed word list and use a thesaurus to choose more challenging higher level words to use in their writing. They changed words like live to reside, shy to timid, beautiful into stunning, smart into clever, etc... The main objective I had as

their TAG teacher was for the connection to color as well as obvious use of the thesaurus to be evident in their creative writing pieces. My biggest challenge was of course limited time with the students, but also not being their writing teacher, I had to stay focused on what I was looking for specifically for them to master in their TAG objectives and not to focus as much on the mechanics of their writings. I was surprised most all of them had never used a thesaurus

before—that was pretty cool getting to introduce and show them how to use one. I know it made them feel better about their writing.

"This project was fun but the hard part was what color to choose and to have to connect it in our writing. We had to create our color into a real person and I felt pretty smart using BIG words in my story out of the thesaurus."

Katherine Alejo-4D

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What's Happening in TAG?

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TAG Creative Writing Projects



Mrs. Tickle Me Pink by Melissa Alonso, 4D

"The most challenging part of our TAG project was the quality. Mrs. Young said it had to be TAG quality. My favorite part of our project was getting to use different materials to put in our art part. I also liked getting to make the person into what I wanted to make it as long as it matched the color."

Sarah Cardenas-4D

"Doing this project was fun, hard and challenging. The most fun part for me was that we got to be extra creative and use TAG quality work. The hardest part was that we had to match the color with their personality. During this project we did lots of cool stuff. You want to see it? Then go check out the wall outside our TAG room and look for the words CREATIVE WRITING!"

Diana Lopez-4D

"The easiest part of our Color projects was drawing and creating our color person. The hardest part was the writing and correcting our spelling. I felt smarter when I got to use the thesaurus to pick bigger words."

Melissa Alonso-4D

Written by Lorie Young, TAG teacher

Folklorico

Folklorico students from Sidney Lanier Elementary Vanguard School performed at the State Fair of Texas on October 18th. The performance was a huge success with multiple dances and costume changes. The children range from first grade to the fifth grade and spend two days a week after school practicing and perfecting their dances. Many of these students are involved in many different activities at school and outside the classroom. Directed by Ms. Sylvia Salas she states, "Folklorico dance teaches tradi-

tional folk dances from the different regions of Mexico. Each region has its own type of music and costumes to go with the music. At our school there are 14 dances that the students learn. I try to add a new one every other year if possible. The students perform dances from the regions of Jalisco, Vera Cruz, and Michoacan." Some names of the dances performed are Pelea deCallos, Machetes, Chapancas, and Los Viejitos. "

*Written by Sylvia Salas,
Program
Director*



*Folklorico students pose in costume at the State Fair of Texas on Sunday, October 18th.
Program Director is Ms. Sylvia Salas.*

"What I like about Folklorico is that we can go to many special places and dance."

Anabel Hernandez-2D

"When we perform with our dresses we look like a rainbow."

Esli Morales-5B

Top left: Samantha Morales, Roberto Morales, Samantha Benitez,, Royland Ortiz, Brenda Rebuloso, Micah Martinez, Kammy Martinez, Aaron Martinez, Kenia Rebuloso, and Ms. Salas

Lower left: Joharyth Jaimes, Annabel Hernandez, Elizabeth Hastings, Litzy Martinez, Yulitza Martinez, Makayla Torres, and Wendy Moreno

Who are We?



Young String Performers Sarah Cardenas and Esli Morales pose for a picture before their TV interview with KSLA News.

At Sidney Lanier Elementary Vanguard for the Expressive Arts, fourth and fifth grade students combine extensive performing and visual arts instruction with a rich academic curriculum. Experienced, qualified teachers in each of the seven performing and visual arts areas mold developing artists from beginners to confident performers. At the same time, the school's academic faculty consistently challenges students to achieve at a high level. Fifth-grade students leave the Vanguard program ready to per-

form successfully in the District's elite arts and academic magnet programs in middle school.

Students choose two classes from the following seven disciplines to study on a daily basis. Band, Choir, Dance, Orchestra, Piano, Theater Arts, and Visual Arts. Studio-quality classes are offered on both a beginning and advanced level. No previous arts experience or training is needed to apply. Applications are accepted in February from current third of fourth grade students for the coming school year.

Written by Vanguard Program

Administration

Principal	Alyssa Peraza
Assistant Principal	Leah McDonough
Academic Coordinator	Christina Steffey

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Character Counts *From page 1*



Ms. Alicia Davis 4th grade class holding their character counts flags.

Counts! Week was started. We teach the students The Six Pillars of Character using the acronym that you pronounce "Terrific" T.R.R.F.C.C.

T-Trustworthiness, R-Respect, R-Responsibility, F-Fairness, C-Caring, C-Citizenship.

"An ethical person lives by the Six Pillars of Character, universal values that support good choices." Some books to read are: "The Selfish Crocodile" by Faustin Charles, "The Boy Who Wouldn't Share" by Mike Reiss, "Unlovable" by Dan Yaccarino. Students had a chance to make a flag out of construction paper and popsicle sticks. They were to use the Character Traits worksheet to write as many traits as they could about themselves.

Written by Terri Morgan, Counselor

Calendar

November

13th	Dollar Day Fall Festival 2-5 p.m.
14th	Math Olympiad
19th	PTA Meeting Band/Orchestra Show—7 p.m.
25-27th	Thanksgiving Holidays